

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 12, No. 8 – Tuesday, February 26, 2019

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*Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.*

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### **1. Do You or Your Neighbors Have Flood Damage?**

This week, public employees with the City of Knoxville and Knox County, as well as fire and ambulance personnel, will be documenting damage to houses and businesses caused by this weekend's flooding.

The damage assessment will be forwarded to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), which will collect data from multiple communities to see if the damage estimate reaches a threshold to qualify for application for possible federal assistance. Nothing is guaranteed, but this is the first step for possible assistance.

Property owners are encouraged to call 3-1-1 (or 865-215-4311) to report significant damage to their buildings. You can also fill out this [form](#) to report damages at your convenience. Uniformed first responders or government employees will be making visits to many, but not all, damaged properties.

If homeowners or business owners see a uniformed first responder or a storm water engineer in street clothes in their neighborhood, they should not be startled. If anyone claiming to be helping with the damage assessment comes onto private property, the property owner should ask to see their identification. Further, the property owner may call 3-1-1 and verify that the person providing identification is indeed a legitimate damage assessment team member. The property owner should not open their door to anyone that they deem suspicious.

## **2. Fourth and Gill Gets Creative with Environmental Event**

**Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Association** holds their 2nd Annual TN Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, Mar. 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fourth & Gill Park, 808 Eleanor St.

This event will include an engaging, nature-inspired activity for children; a plant / seed swap; a talk on Tree Care by local arborist, Jim Cortese; a presentation of the Carbon Footprint Challenge winner; and a planting of a Paw Paw patch in the park.

Bagels, donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. Plan to BYOM (bring your own mug) to help reduce as much waste as possible.

For more information, check out the [event](#) on the Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization Facebook page.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration is the celebration following the neighborhood's Arbor Day Carbon Footprint Challenge. For the challenge, taking place from Monday, Feb. 25, to Friday, Mar. 1, neighbors fill out a chart, earning points for each environmentally sound activity they participate in.

What constitutes an “environmentally sound activity”? Some options are: carpooling, forgoing the straw at a restaurant, line drying clothing, and other creative ideas. Last year the group even found creative ways to conserve water!

The Woolly Bears, Fourth and Gill's Wildlife Habitat Team (seeking to get the neighborhood certified as a Wildlife Habitat), will announce the winner of the Carbon Footprint Challenge at the Arbor Day Celebration on Mar. 2. The prize is a beautiful trophy created by local artist Gerry Moll, which will be passed down by last year's winners, Chris Jerger and Alice Schoo-Jerger, and low carbon footprint bragging rights!

What fun things are your neighborhood organizations doing? We would love to hear from you and feature your creative idea in the Neighborhood Advisory. Email Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov) to share your events and activities.

## **3. City Council Meets Every Other Tuesday**

Is your neighborhood keeping up with City Council? As the City's legislative body, City Council meets frequently to discuss and confirm various ordinances that affect the City of Knoxville. Regularly scheduled meetings are held every other Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St. The next regularly scheduled meeting is tonight, Tuesday, Feb. 26.

City Council is composed of nine members: one representative for each of the City's six districts in addition to three 'at-large' representatives. 'At-large' Council members represent the entire city. All Council members are elected to serve a term of four years.

The [agenda](#) for City Council meetings is available online the Friday before each meeting. [Minutes](#) for each meeting are available online the Thursday after each meeting. Minutes include the action taken on each item on City Council's agenda.

If your neighborhood is interested in speaking before City Council about any item on the agenda or during the Public Forum held at the end of every meeting, contact the City Recorder's Office at 865-215-2075. You may sign up to speak as late as 15 minutes before the beginning of the meeting. However, you are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to secure a spot.

In addition to their legislative duties, City Council doubles as Knoxville's Beer Board. The Beer Board regulates beer permits. Regularly scheduled City Council meetings can be watched live on CTV, Channel 12. Recordings of City Council meetings are released the following Tuesday at 7 p.m. by CTV. To view the recordings, visit [www.ctvknox.org](http://www.ctvknox.org).

For more information about City Council and to view the agenda for the Feb. 26 meeting, visit their [website](#).

#### **4. Active Shooter Safety Workshop is this Thursday**

The Knoxville Police Department and Office of Neighborhoods are sponsoring a workshop where neighbors will learn how to protect themselves in an active shooter situation. The event is Thursday, Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Civic Coliseum Reception Hall.

These situations are appearing more frequently in the news, and we want our Knoxville neighbors to feel as prepared as possible if faced with such tragedy in our neighborhoods.

If you have questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov), or 215 - 4382.

Anyone needing a disability accommodation to be able to attend this meeting or any public meeting should contact Stephanie Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865 - 215 - 2034. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 865 - 215 - 2831.

#### **5. BBB Cancelled; Agenda Released for POH**

The Better Building Board (BBB) has been cancelled for this week. There was one item on the agenda and it has been resolved.

Many properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing (POH) at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Mar. 1. The agenda for POH can be found on the City's [webpage](#).

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are: 1322 Beaumont Ave. – Confirmation of emergency repair / demolition order; 6001 Centerwood Dr. - including accessory structure; 2401 North Central St.; 710 Farragut Ave.; 925 Farragut Ave. – including accessory structure; 204 Fern St.; 648 Maryville Pike – including accessory structure; 400 Murray Dr. – Unit 3; 905 Phillips Ave.; 209 East Quincy Ave.; 1863 Riverside Dr.; 2717 Tarleton Ave. – Pool Only; 2544 Vucrest Ave. – including accessory structure; 2504 Washington Ave. - accessory structure only; and 1721 Woodbine Ave.

These properties have been approved for boarding: 1012 South Castle St.; 2102 Dodson Ave.; 924 Farragut Ave; 204 Fern St.; 830 North Fourth Ave.; 215 Oglewood Ave.; 5316 Rowan Rd.; and 1626 Rugby Ave.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor, --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

## **6. Last Call for Neighbor of the Year Nominees**

Don't miss your chance to nominate an amazing neighbor!

Nominations for Good Neighbor of the Year will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 4.

Here is the [application](#). It can be emailed to [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov), hand delivered to the City County Building Room 528, or mailed to Office of Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

All nominees will be recognized at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, May 18, with one winning the honor of Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year. [See past winners](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at the above email.

## **7. OON Releases Survey; Offers Prize**

The Office of Neighborhoods (OON) will be releasing an organizational survey on Friday, March 1. The survey will be live until after the annual Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, May 18.

As Knoxville continues to grow, we are committed to growing with Knoxville's neighborhoods. In order to ensure that we are providing quality services to all of Knoxville's neighborhoods (and their residents), we are implementing this survey to gain a deeper perspective of how our work can evolve with Knoxville. The organizational survey is intended to provide OON with constructive feedback on its mission, communication methods, and initiatives.

OON appreciates any time you can give to taking the survey and sharing it with your fellow Knoxvilleans. The survey takes 15 minutes and is anonymous. Survey responses can be saved and submitted at a later date. At the end of this survey, each participant will have the opportunity to enter into a monthly prize contest. At the close of each month, a winner will be selected from the month's participant pool. Prizes will vary by month and no participant is eligible to win more than one prize.

If you have questions or would like to request a paper copy, contact Hannah Freeman at [hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov) or call 215-3456.

## **8. CTV Seeks Treasures for Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Action**

Jeremy: "Hey, Quin. That is an awesome botchy ball set!"

Quin: "Thanks, Jeremy. Sadly, it is just sitting here gathering dust in the garage."

Jeremy: "You should list it for the Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Auction! Not only would someone love a great yard game like that, but you can also raise money for our neighborhood."

Quin: "What!? Tell me more!"

Do you have some awesome treasures gathering dust in your garage, attic, trunk, or even living room? Why not list them for the Neighborhood Treasure Hunt!

Starting April 12, [Community Television](#) (CTV), in partnership with the Office of Neighborhoods, will air a 3-week long online-auction on Facebook, ending in a Final Sale and three hour televised broadcast on Friday, May 3. Neighbors donate items, such as antiques, furniture, games, and more. They, then, designate which neighborhood they wish to donate the proceeds from the sale.

So far, neighbors have donated a dog crate, a china tea set, and some antique golf balls! The more items donated from your neighborhood, the more money you could raise for a project, event, or other fun neighborhood activity.

Registration closes April 11; [register your items today!](#)

To learn more and to have your neighborhood featured during the three hour broadcast event on May 3, click [here](#).

## **9. Brush Pick-up to Resume March 4**

February showers bring... March brush pick up!

That's right, beginning March 4, Public Service crews will resume scheduled brush pick-up and residential brush and yard waste will be collected every two weeks. Enter your address [here](#) to find out when you will be receiving pick-up

To ensure your brush is collected, be sure to follow a few easy guidelines:

- Brush cannot exceed a '6 x 6 x 6' foot pile.
- Brush must be kept separate from all other trash.
- Brush should be no further than five feet from the roadside and away from all stationary objects such as mailboxes, telephone poles, parked cars, etc.
- Do not place brush in center medians, islands, or on other public property.
- Do not place brush on sidewalks.

- Brush pick-up only applies to residential areas. Businesses and companies are responsible for removing their own debris.

To learn more about City of Knoxville brush pickup, check out the City's Brush Collection [website](#).

**[10. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#)** (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

**Other Calendars**

Here are other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

**About This Newsletter**

*\*\* This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

*\*\* Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*\*\* Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*\*\* May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

*\*\* See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

*\*\* Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*